Amendments to the Claims

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 the following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Cancel)

2. (Currently Amended) A method for compiling health information, performed by a computer-controlled apparatus, the method comprising:

establishing a database, under the control of a computer, for storing a plurality of health statuses of a plurality of users, wherein the database is centrally-accessible from the Internet;

receiving, over the Internet, from a user, data corresponding to a health statistic of the user, the data generated by a health monitoring device;

analyzing the health statistic to determine a health status from the health statistic, wherein the analyzing step includes ~~statistically~~ comparing data received from the health monitoring device and statistics derived from analysis of the plurality of health statuses ~~of the plurality of users~~;

storing the health status in the database; ~~and~~

updating a population statistic based on the health status and the plurality of health statuses;

associating limits with at least one health statistic received from the user; and

notifying a user's physician, with a message sent from the computer, to contact the user when the limits are exceeded by the health statistic.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the health statistic comprises cardiovascular data.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the cardiovascular data corresponds to a blood pressure of the user.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the health monitoring device comprises an electret transducer.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the data comprises acoustic data from the electret transducer, the acoustic data including at least one waveform.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the analyzing step further comprises:

measuring at least one of a shape of the waveform, a slope of the waveform, and an area under the waveform;

determining a cardiovascular age factor of the user based on the measuring step; and

storing the cardiovascular age factor in the database as the health status.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

providing the cardiovascular age factor to at least one of the user and a second user.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the receiving step further comprises:

receiving, from the user, a request to store the data;

receiving a financial account identifier corresponding to a financial account; and

charging a fee against the financial account in response to the request.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the receiving step further comprises:

receiving user identification data corresponding to the user including at least one of: a name, an address, a login name, a password, a health care provider, a health insurance provider, a time that the first data was generated, and a financial account identifier corresponding to a financial account; and

receiving user medical data corresponding to the user including at least one of: an age, a height, a weight, an activity level, an ethnic group, a medical history, and a family medical history.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the storing step further comprises:

storing the user identification data and user medical data in the database.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the analyzing step further comprises:

determining a cardiovascular age factor of the user based on the data and at least a portion of the user medical data; and

storing the cardiovascular age factor in the database.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

providing the cardiovascular age factor to at least one of the user and a second user.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

receiving, from a second user, a request for the health status; and

providing the health status to the second user.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the providing step further comprises:

receiving, from the second user, a financial account identifier corresponding to a financial account; and

charging a fee to the financial account in response to the request.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the health status is provided and an identity of the first user is withheld.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

determining a plurality of population health statistics from the plurality of health statuses, including the first health status.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

receiving, from a second user, a request for at least a portion of the population health statistics; and

providing the requested portion of population health statistics to the second user.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the providing step further comprises:

receiving a financial account identifier corresponding to a financial account; and

charging a fee against the financial account, in response to the request.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

receiving, from a second user, second data corresponding to a health statistic of the second user.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

receiving, from the user, second data corresponding to the health statistic of the user at a separate time;

analyzing the second data to generate a second health statistic of the user; and

storing the second health statistic of the user.

22. (Withdrawn) A computer-readable medium encoded with processing instructions for directing a processor to perform a method for compiling health information, the method comprising:

establishing a database for storing a plurality of health statuses of a plurality of users, wherein the database is centrally-accessible;

receiving, from a user, data corresponding to a health statistic of the user, the data generated by a health monitoring device;

determining a health status of the user from the health statistic;

storing the health status in the database; and

updating a population statistic based on the health status and the plurality of health statuses.

23. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for compiling health information, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory operatively connected to the processor for storing processing instructions directing the processor to:

establish a database for storing a plurality of health statuses of a plurality of users, wherein the database is centrally-accessible;

receive, from a user, data corresponding to a health statistic of the user, the data generated by a health monitoring device;

determine a health status of the user from the health statistic;

store the health status in the database; and

update a population statistic based on the health status and the plurality of health statuses.

24. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for compiling health information comprising:

means for establishing a database for storing a plurality of health statuses of a plurality of users, wherein the database is centrally-accessible;

means for receiving, from a user, data corresponding to a health statistic of the user, the data generated by a health monitoring device;

means for determining a health status of the user from the health statistic;

means for storing the health status in the database; and

means for updating a population statistic based on the health status and the plurality of health statuses.

25. (Currently Amended) A method, performed by a computer-controlled apparatus, for submitting acoustical cardiovascular data to a central database, the method comprising:

receiving, from a user, a request to detect a cardiovascular signal of the user;

initializing a cardiovascular monitoring device connected to a computer in response to the request;

measuring ~~the~~ an acoustical cardiovascular signal with the cardiovascular monitoring device while a startup routine performed by the computer is ongoing;

analyzing a waveform of the cardiovascular signal to determine at least one of a shape of the signal, a slope of the signal, and an area under the signal; and

receiving, at the computer after the startup routine, at least a portion of the detected cardiovascular signal of the user; ~~and~~

transmitting data based on the received cardiovascular signal to a central database for storage in a record corresponding to the user;

associating limits with the data based on the received cardiovascular signal; and

notifying a user's physician, with a message sent from the computer, to contact the user when the limits are exceeded by the data.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of receiving a request further comprises:

receiving, from the user, user identification data corresponding to the user including at least one of: a name, an address, a login name, a password, a health care provider, a health insurance provider, a time that the request was generated, and a financial account identifier corresponding to a financial account;

receiving user medical data corresponding to the user including at least one of: an age, a height, a weight, an activity level, an ethnic group, a medical history, and a family medical history; and wherein the transmitting step further comprises:

transmitting at least a portion of one of the user identification data and the user medical data to the central database.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the cardiovascular monitoring device comprises an electret transducer.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, the method further comprising:

determining a cardiovascular age factor of the user based on the measuring step; and wherein the transmitting step further comprises:

transmitting the cardiovascular age factor to the central database.

29. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the transmitting step further comprises:

transmitting the data to the central database through one of a modem connection and the Internet.

30. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for submitting acoustical cardiovascular data to a central database, comprising:

means for receiving, from a user, a request to detect a cardiovascular signal of the user;

means for initializing a cardiovascular monitoring device connected to a computer in response to the request;

means for measuring the cardiovascular signal during a startup routine performed by the computer;

means for receiving, at the computer, at least a portion of the detected cardiovascular signal of the user; and

means for transmitting data based on the received cardiovascular signal to a central database for storage in a record corresponding to the user.

31. (Withdrawn) An apparatus, for submitting acoustical cardiovascular data to a central database, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory operatively connected to the processor for storing processing instructions directing the processor to:

receive, from a user, a request to detect a cardiovascular signal of the user;

initialize a cardiovascular monitoring device connected to a computer in response to the request;

measure the cardiovascular signal during a startup routine performed by the computer;

receive, at the computer, at least a portion of the detected cardiovascular signal of the user; and

transmit data based on the received cardiovascular signal to a central database for storage in a record corresponding to the user.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the health status is the user's cardiovascular age factor.

33. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the message contains information regarding a reason for contacting the user.

34. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the analyzing step further includes statistically comparing data received from the health monitoring device and statistics derived from analysis of the plurality of health statuses of the plurality of users.

35. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the message contains information regarding a reason for contacting the user.